

M72-135694M/MTV
Amendment dated 6/13/2003

09/941,620

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Reply to office action mailed 03/18/2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 14 and 17 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each .

The Examiner's indication that claims 2-13 are drawn to allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to place these claims in condition for immediate allowance, which is respectfully requested. Further, claims 14 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 2 rather than claim 1, and therefore it is believed that claims 14-17 are also in allowable form, being dependent upon allowable claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,525,306 to Bohn. The rejection as to claims 14-17 is made moot by the foregoing amendment making claims 14-17 dependent from claim 2 rather than claim 1. As to claim 1, Bohn provides a digital camera mounted within a mouse casing. This is intended to provide a more convenient means for generating images that can be sent as attachments to electronic mail messages. The digital camera so mounted includes a data storage medium for the image produced by the digital camera, and the image data on the storage medium is communicated by a data image processor to a personal computer.

The present invention uses a mouse connection to provide an auxiliary storage medium (such as a flash card or a memory stick) to a personal computer, without requiring an additional interface device. While Bohn has a data storage device in a mouse, and communicates through a USB port between the data storage device and the personal computer, the data storage device in Bohn is neither general purpose nor removable. Bohn therefore fails to describe or suggest the combination embodied by the present invention.

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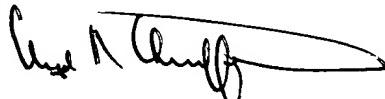
Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to make explicit this aspect of the invention, that is, that the data storage medium is removable and is accessible to the computer as auxiliary storage (page 3, lines 7-8) via the mouse's connection to the computer.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-17 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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